



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor
MIKE CHRISMAN, Secretary

Governor Schwarzenegger Signs Budget that Improves Fire and Flood Protection, Preserves California's Natural Resources

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 12, 2005

CONTACT: Sue Sims
Alexandra Tollette
(916) 653-9205

(SACRAMENTO) – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed a budget that ensures protection against wildfires and floods and invests in the state's parks and open spaces. The new spending plan includes \$3.7 billion for departments, boards, commissions, and other entities within the Resources Agency.

"Governor Schwarzenegger understands that California's lands, water, and plant and animal resources must be conserved to sustain economic growth and preserve our quality of life," said Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman. "Not only does this budget make a strong commitment to resource protection, it also ensures that Californians are protected against fires, floods, and other natural disasters."

The FY 2005-06 budget provides additional funds to enhance fire safety and preparedness under the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, including \$10.8 million for new and improved equipment, \$9 million to retain full firefighter staffing throughout the year in dry Southern California counties, \$2.9 million for conversion and replacement of radio equipment, and \$7.7 million to continue fuel reduction programs in the Sierra Nevada.

The budget also provides \$9.7 million in new funding for flood control, levee maintenance, and flood response activities administered by the Department of Water Resources. Additionally, it allocates more than \$100 million to fund conservation, conveyance, and water quality projects statewide, including \$59.1 million to conserve 93,700 acre feet of water lost annually due to seepage in the Coachella and All-American canals in Southern California.

Other items in the budget include:

\$20.7 million in bond and special funds for planning and related efforts to preserve, restore, and sustain the Lake Tahoe Basin (California Tahoe Conservancy); \$1.3 million in General Fund money to open and operate State Parks' portion of the Hearst Ranch Conservation Easement (Parks and Recreation); \$3.5 million dollars of initial funding for the newly-created Sierra

-more-

Nevada Conservancy (SNC); and \$1.7 million to perform reviews of timber harvest plans (Department of Fish and Game).

The budget also secures an ongoing commitment to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, including \$145.8 million in General Fund and bond monies across six state agencies. However, it also reflects a desire on the part of the legislature and the administration to slow CALFED spending during the upcoming fiscal year pending completion of a fiscal review.

In May the governor directed the Secretary for Resources to complete a three part action plan for CALFED in time for next year's January budget proposal. The plan includes an independent fiscal review, refocusing the California Bay-Delta Authority and other state agencies on resolving conflicts in the Delta, and developing a 10-year plan to finance Program activities.

###